Carolina Center for Exploratory Genetic Analysis (CCEGA)
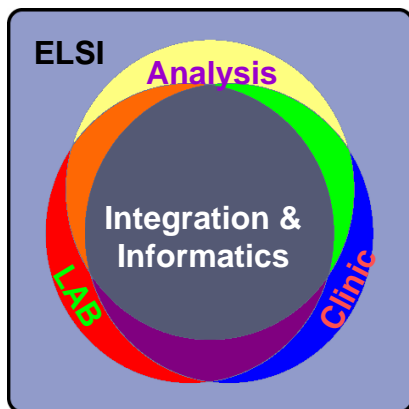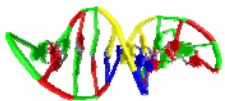
Dan Reed
reed@renci.org

Chancellor's Eminent Professor
Vice Chancellor for IT
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

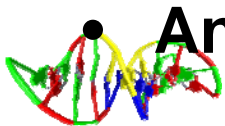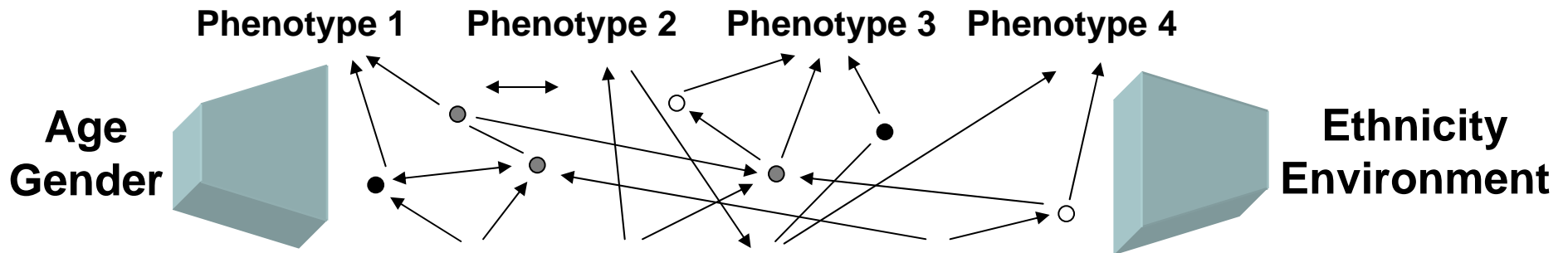**Director, Renaissance Computing Institute**
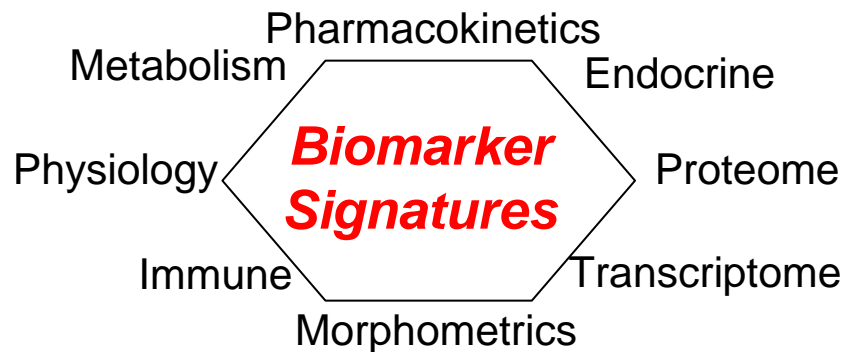
Partners and Leaders

- **Terry Magnuson, genetics**
  - co-leader
- **Kirk Wilhelmsen, genetics**
  - project manager
- **Jim Evans, medicine**
  - ELSI
- **Brad Hemminger, library and information science**
  - data models and federation
- **Jan Prins, computer science**
  - informatics
- **Fred Wright, biostatistics**
- **Xiaojun Guan, RENCI**
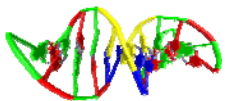 - computer science/bioinformatics
- **And a host of others …**

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Genetics and Disease Susceptibility

Phenotype 1 **Phenotype 2** **Phenotype 3** **Phenotype 4**

Age Gender

Ethnicity Environment

Identify Genes

Pharmacokinetics

Metabolism — Endocrine

Physiology — *Biomarker Signatures* — Proteome

Immune — Transcriptome

Morphometrics

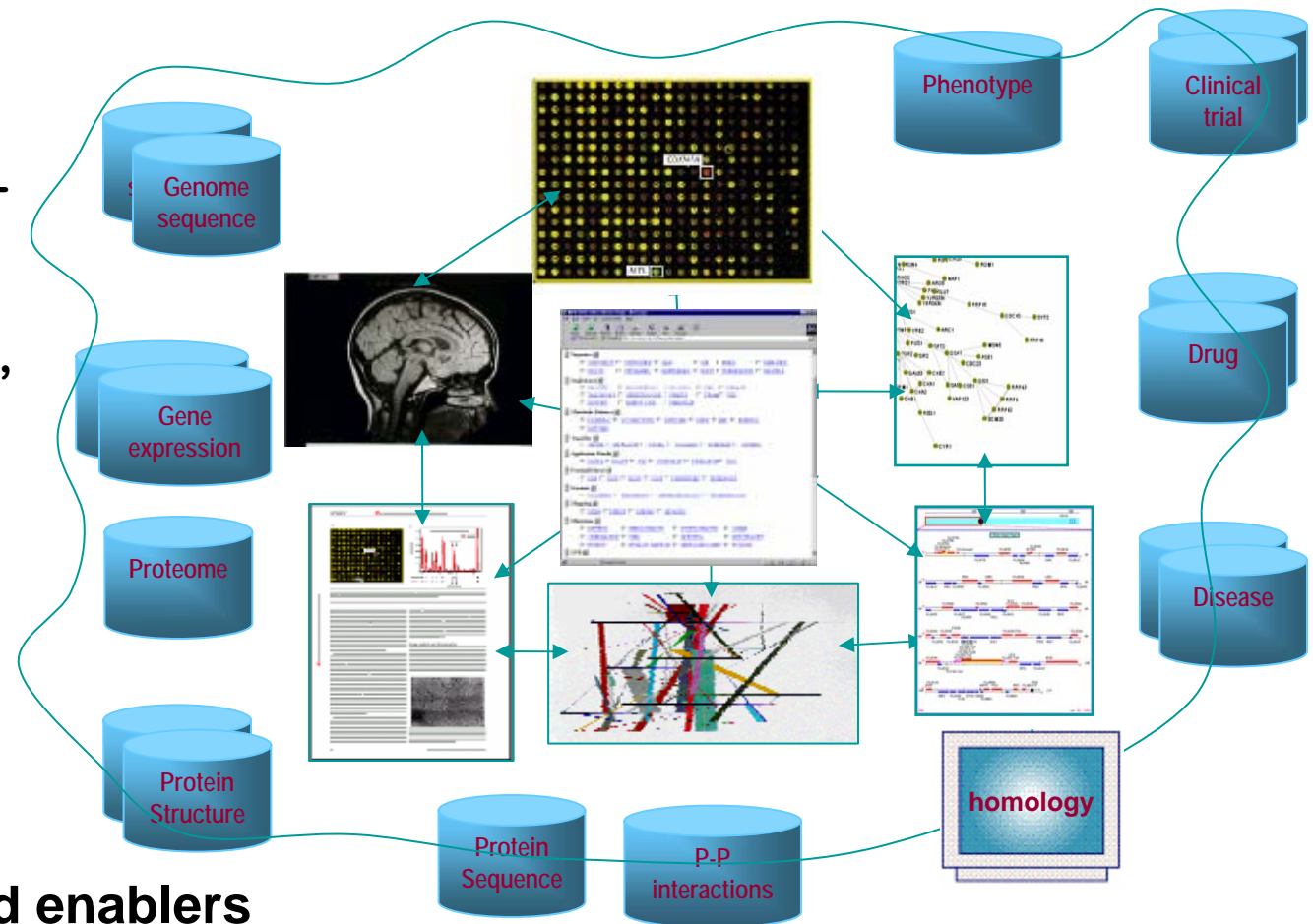**Predictive Disease Susceptibility**

Source: David Threadgill/Terry Magnuson
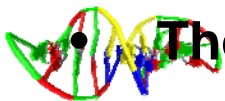
Data Heterogeneity and Complexity

Genomic, proteomic, transcriptomic, metabalomic, protein-protein interactions, regulatory bio-networks, alignments, disease, patterns and motifs, protein structure, protein classifications, specialist proteins (enzymes, receptors)

- **Many causes and enablers**
  - increased instrument resolution
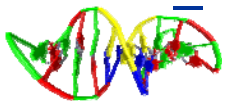 - increased storage capability
- **The challenge:** *extracting insight!*

Source: Carole Goble (Manchester)
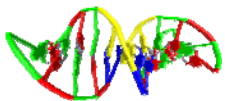
Barriers to Efficient Collaboration

- **Information Tower of Babel**
  - nomenclature and coordination
- **ELSI/IRB limitations**
  - data sharing and consent
- **Heterogeneous tools**
  - limited interoperability
  - steep learning curves
- **Culture of autonomy**
  - redundant development
    - e.g., proprietary data formats
  - best practices not always used
- **Culture gaps**
  - medicine and informatics

Peter Bruegel
The Tower of Babel (1563)
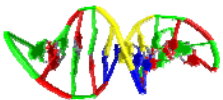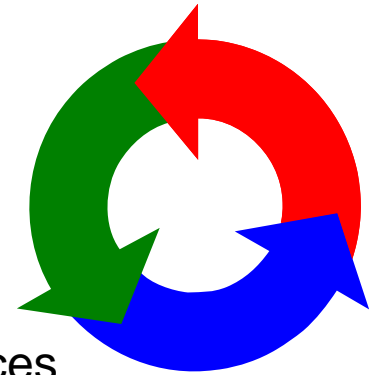
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Confluence and Opportunity

- **Center for Genome Sciences (CCGS)**
  - ten year investment of $245M
  - new center and department
  - 4 buildings and 22 faculty lines
  - advanced facilities and equipment
  - participation by multiple schools and departments
  - major gift for proteomics

- **Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI)**
  - interdisciplinary applications of computing
  - faculty, staff and student collaborations
  - new infrastructure and capabilities
  - technology transfer and economic development
  - major state funding

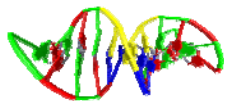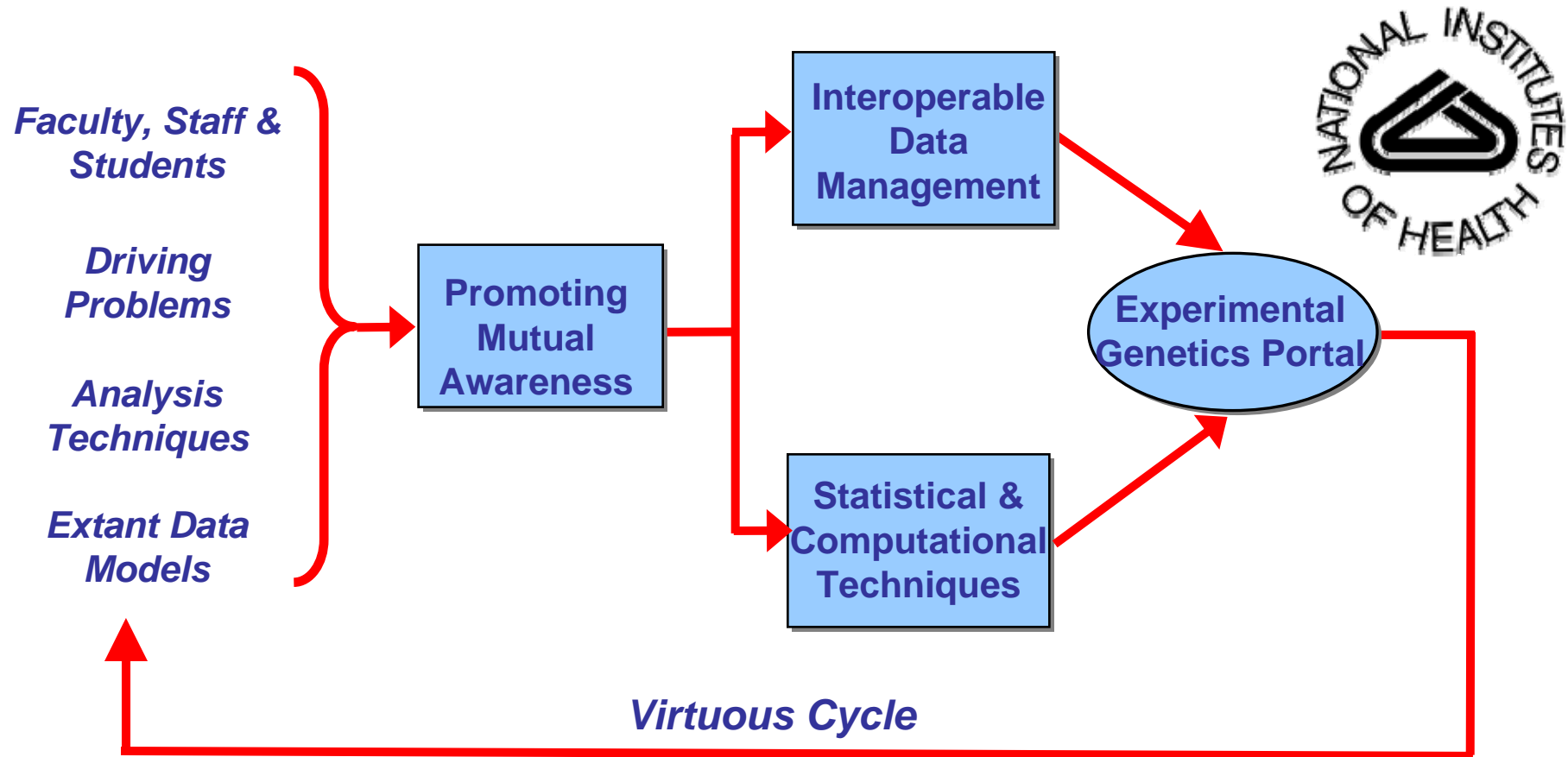**renci**
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CCEGA Project Goals

- **Develop collaborative experiences and plans**
  - mutual understanding and idea generation
  - shared needs and activities
- **Deliverables and activities**
  - develop a protocol for prospective studies
    - using ongoing studies as examples to define best practices
    - Carolina Cohort
  - develop a prototype informatics infrastructure
    - data models, methods, tools and portals
  - demonstrate the utility of data mining
    - applied to established project(s)
  - facilitate use of best practices for existing projects
  - develop an environment for cross training and education
    - formal and informal education touching project participants and trainees
- **Catalyze new genetics research**

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Carolina Center for Exploratory Genetic Analysis (CCEGA)

Faculty, Staff & Students

Driving Problems

Analysis Techniques

Extant Data Models

Promoting Mutual Awareness

Interoperable Data Management

Statistical & Computational Techniques

Experimental Genetics Portal

Virtuous Cycle
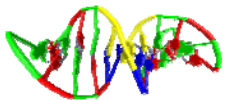
Interdisciplinary Research & Education

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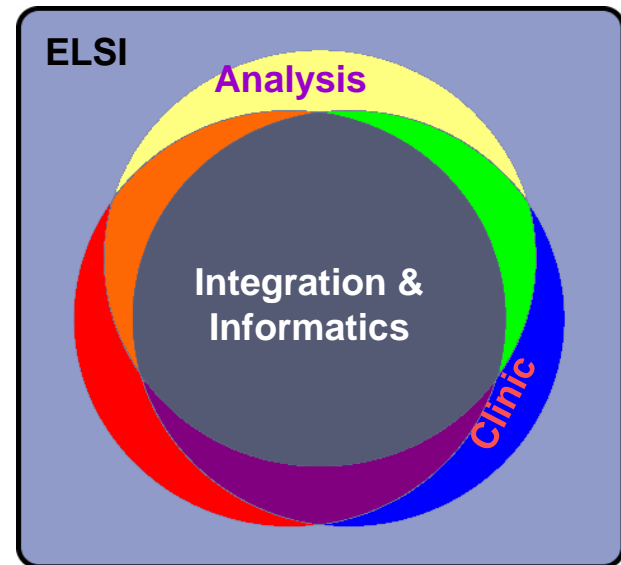renaissance computing institute

CCEGA Participation Snapshot

- **Coordination team**
  - Terry Magnuson, CCGS
  - Kirk Wilhelmsen, CCGS
  - Dan Reed, RENCI
  - Alan Blatecky, RENCI

- **Eleven departments/institutes**
  - Biostatistics
  - Cancer Center
  - Genetics
  - Computer Science
  - Epidemiology
  - Genetics
  - Health Science Library
  - Information and Library Science
  - Pharmacy
  - RENCI
  - Statistics
- **Campus wide support**
  - from many sources

- **Example project participants**
  - Brad Hemminger, Information & Library Science
  - James Evans, Genetics
  - Kevin Gamiel, RENCI
  - Xiaojun Guan, RENCI
  - Barrie Hays, Health Science Library
  - Clark Jefferies, RENCI
  - Ethan Lange, Genetics
  - Andrew Nobel, Statistics
  - Karen Mohlke, Genetics
  - Kari North, Epidemiology
  - Susan Paulsen, Computer Science
  - Fernando Manuel Pardo, Genetics
  - Charles Perou, Cancer Center
  - Lavanya Ramakrishnan, RENCI
  - Jan Prins, Computer Science
  - Patrick Sullivan, Genetics
  - Lisa Susswein, Cancer Center
  - David Threadgill, Genetics
  - Alexander Tropsha, Pharmacy
  - K.T.L. Vaughan, Health Science Library
  - Fred Wright, Biostatistics
  - Wei Wang, Computer Science
  - Fei Zou, Biostatistics

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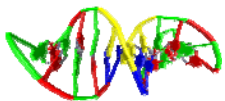renaissance computing institute

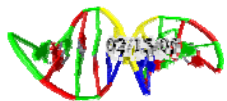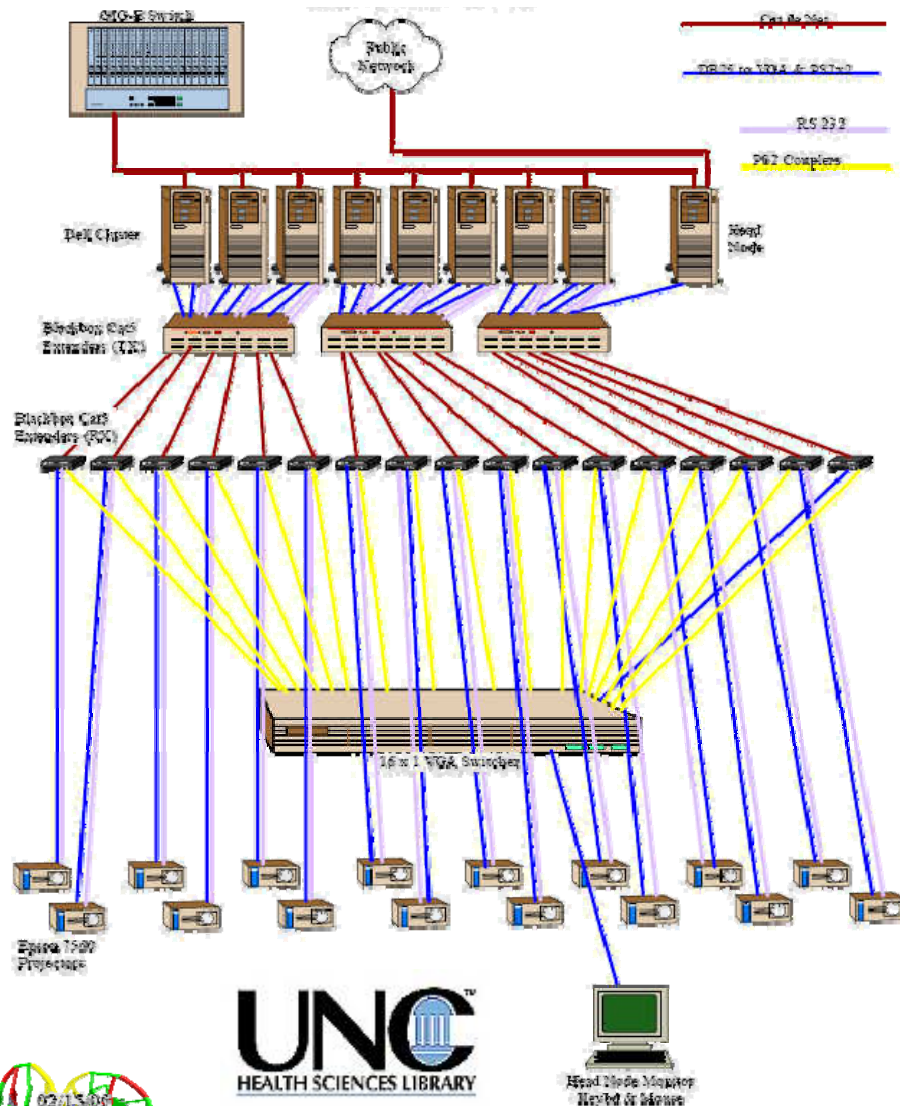# Formal CCEGA Activities

- **Workshops**
  - genetics and disease
  - analysis methods

- **Cross-disciplinary tutorials**
  - genotyping
  - XML and data representations

- **Three major working groups**
  - ELSI, analysis and informatics

- **Software prototyping**
  - portals and data model planning

- **Management group**
  - planning and strategy
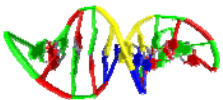

www.renci.org/research/ccega

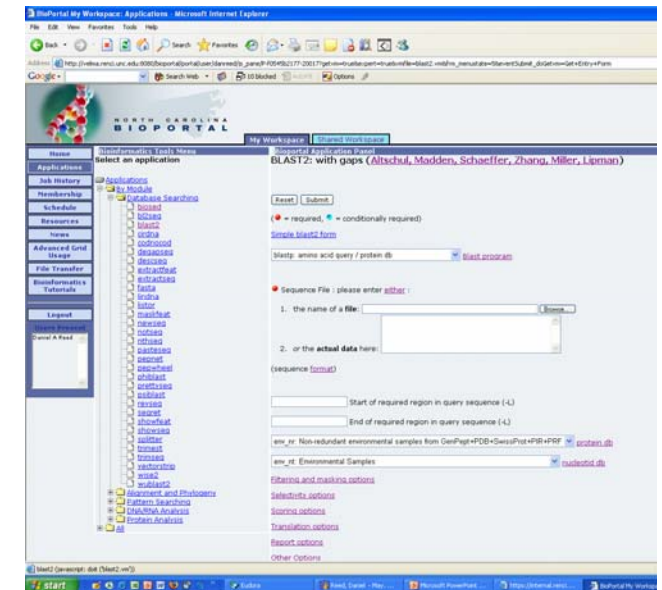# Health Science Collaboration Facility

CCEGA HapMap Simulator

- **Resample from HapMap haplotypes**
  - create individuals with statistical properties of data
  - recombine and adjust
    - biased SNP selection and sample size
- **Model disease**
  - create large populations with families/select individuals
  - disease model can be complex
    - involving multiple loci
- **Enable analysis bakeoff**
  - five data sets simulated with 500K SNPs
    - trait caused by common sequence variants
    - each data set has 5000 cases/5000 controls
      - common versus rare traits
      - independent versus additive versus epistatic
      - variation in effect size and allele frequency
  - blind analysis by five UNC groups
    - computer science, applied math
    - biostatistics, pharmacy and genetics
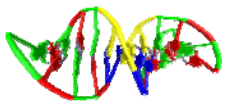
Carolina/CCEGA Bioportal

- **Three overlapping target groups**
  - undergraduate education
  - graduate education and research
  - academic/industrial research
- **Features**
  - access to common bioinformatics tools
  - extensible toolkit and infrastructure
    - OGCE and National Middleware Initiative (NMI)
    - leverages emerging international standards
  - remotely accessible or locally deployable
  - packaged and distributed with documentation
- **National reach and community**
  - NSF TeraGrid deployment
    - science gateway
- **Education and training**
  - hands-on workshops
    - clusters, Grids, portals and bioinformatics
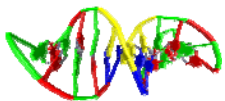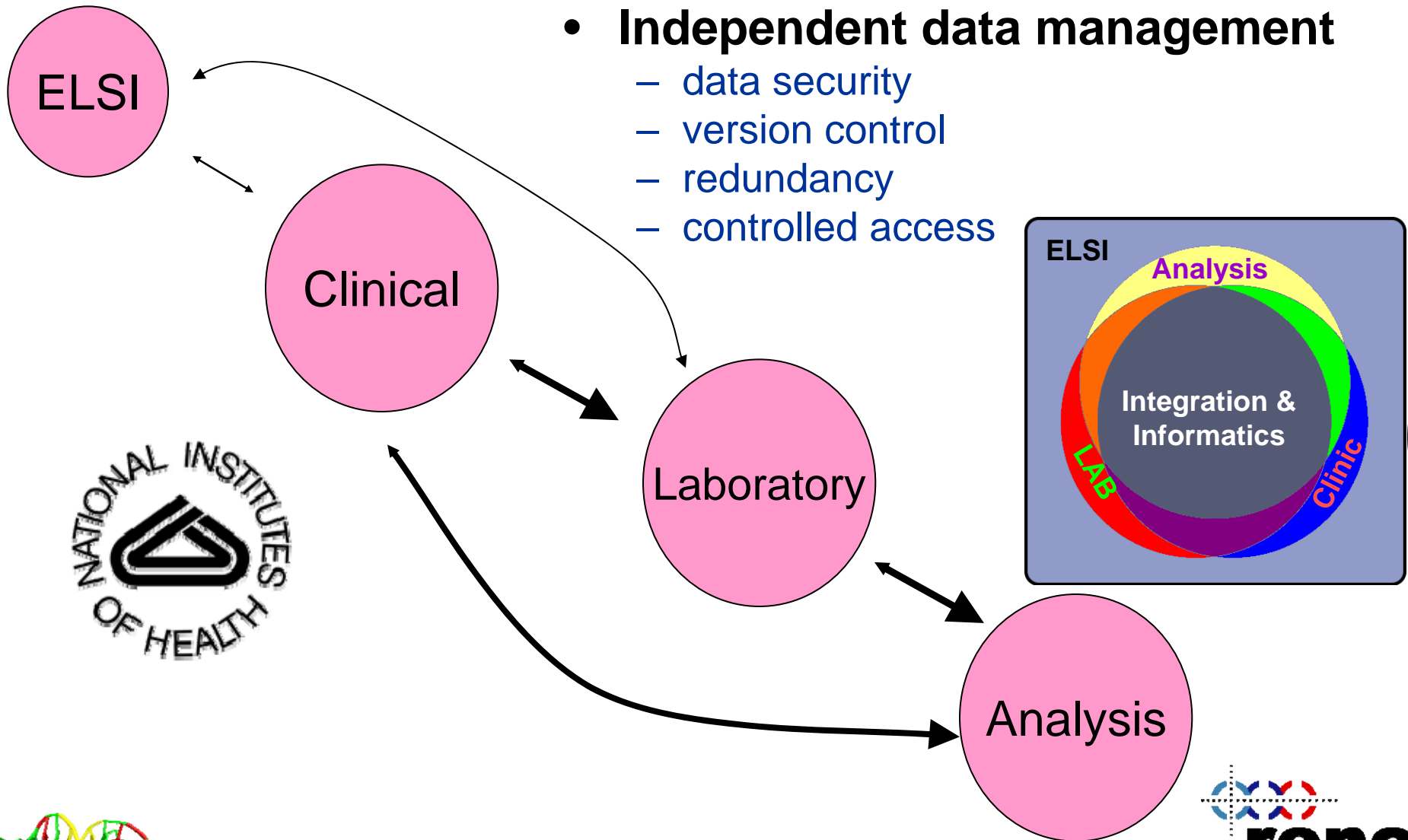

NORTH CAROLINA BIOPORTAL

TeraGrid™

North Carolina

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Data: From Lab and Clinic to Analysis

ELSI

Clinical
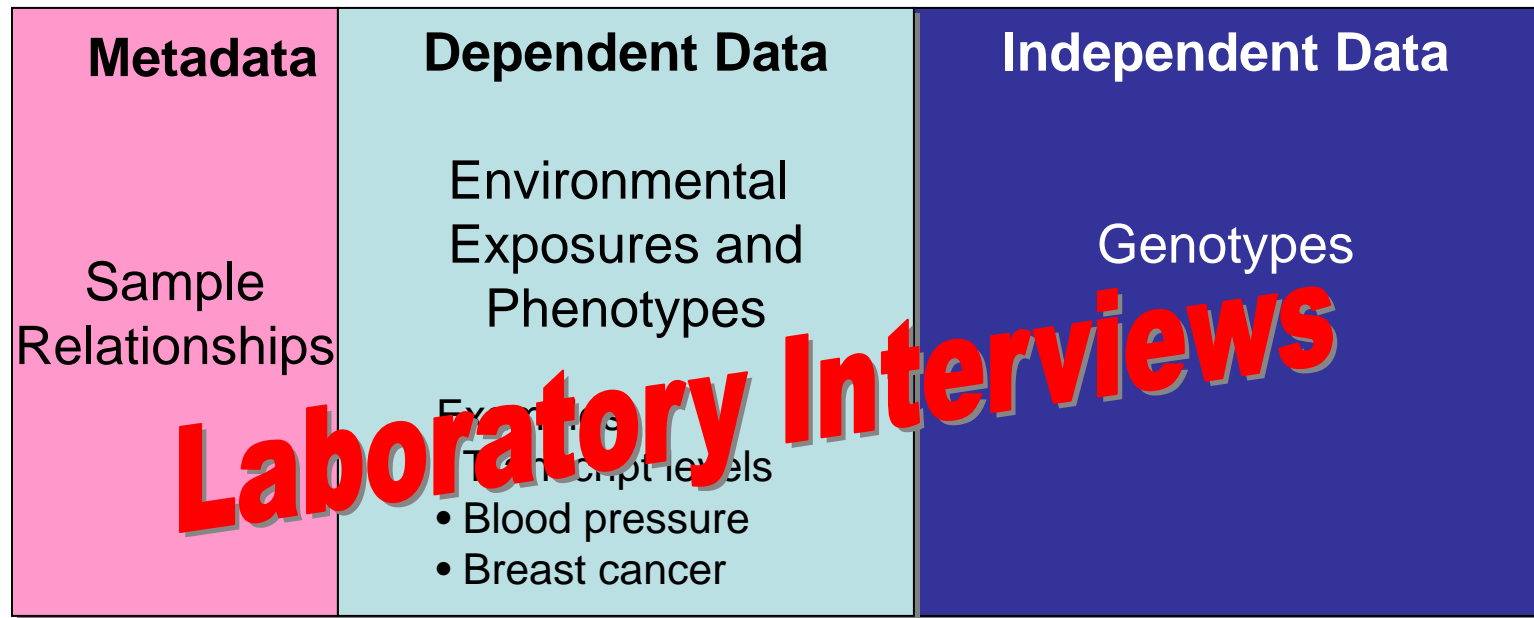
Laboratory

Analysis

- **Independent data management**
  - data security
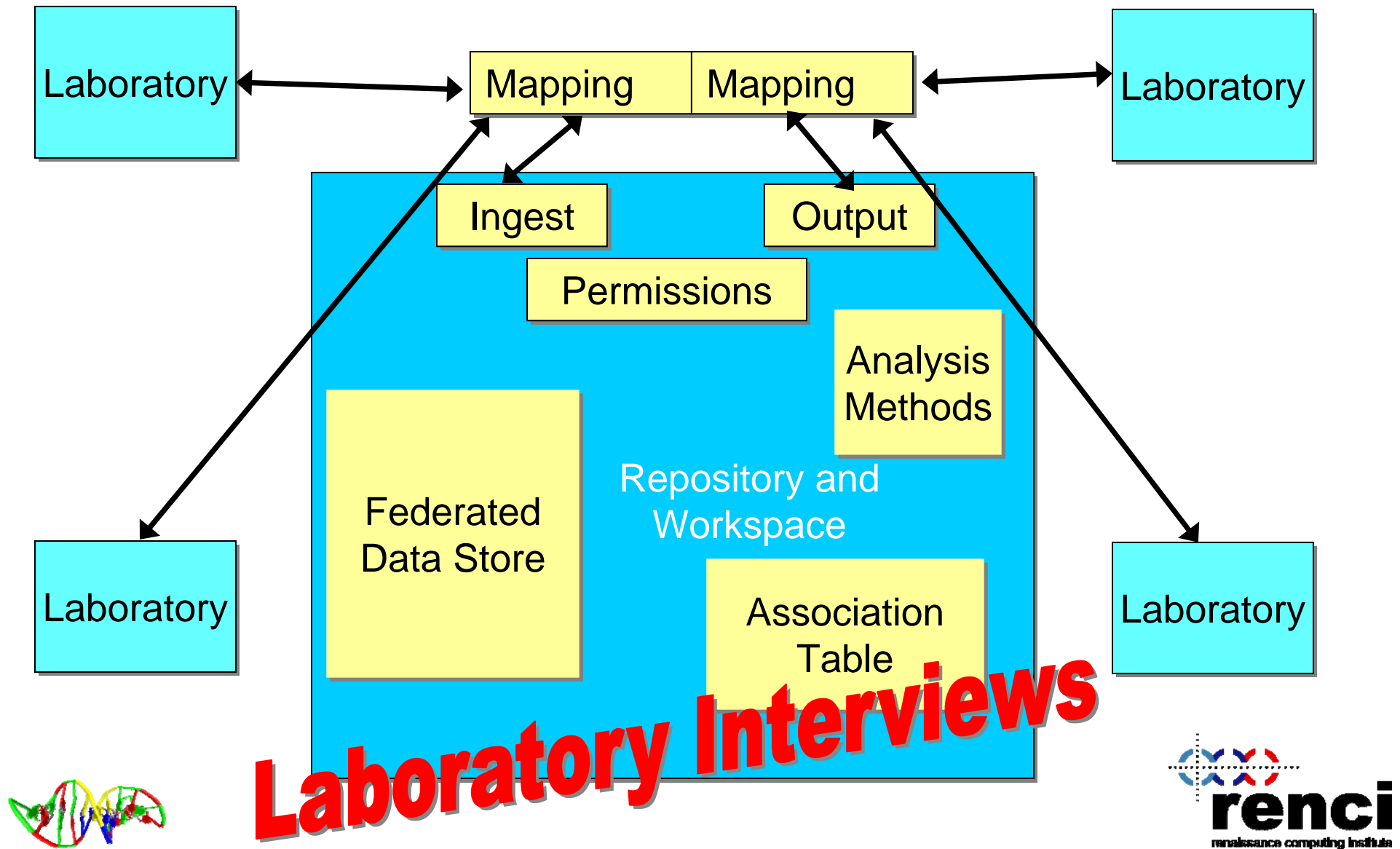 - version control
  - redundancy
  - controlled access

ELSI
Analysis
Integration & Informatics
LAB
Clinic

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Genetic Data: Conceptually a Matrix

Metadata	Dependent Data	Independent Data
Sample Relationships	Environmental Exposures and Phenotypes	Genotypes

Dependent Data:
Environmental Exposures and Phenotypes

~~Example~~
~~Transcript levels~~
- Blood pressure
- Breast cancer

Laboratory Interviews

- **Rows: data on individuals**
- **Columns: multiple data values on an individual**

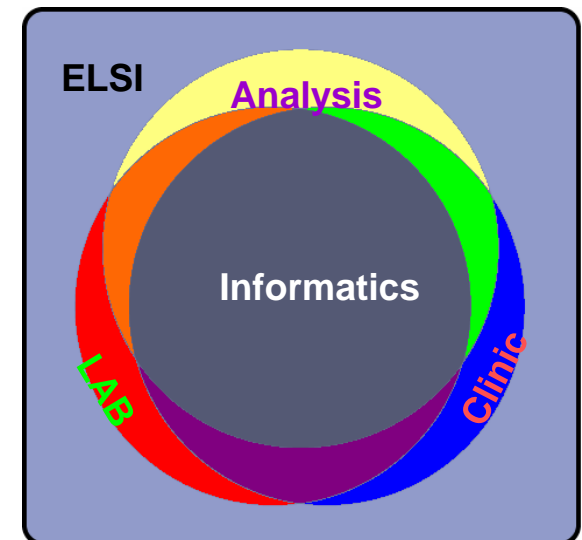renci
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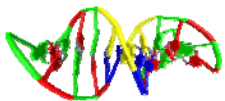
Federated CCEGA Data Model

ELSI Integration

- **Novel ELSI issues from exploratory analysis**
  - practical research needs and subject rights
  - unanticipated results of exploratory analyses
  - possible unforeseen clinical implications
  - Investigator "ownership" issues

- **Outcomes**
  - overarching IRB designed
    - ensure ability to pursue such studies
  - education and engagement

ELSI considerations must be integrated throughout the entire process from study design to data/sample collection, storage, analysis and disclosure

Our Long Term Vision of Success

- **National community representation**
  - driving genetics problems and experiences
  - infrastructure testing and validation
- **Multidisciplinary collaboration**
  - biomedical and informatics researchers
  - software developers
- **National infrastructure and communities**
  - distributed and federated
    - customizable to local needs
  - interoperable and shared
- **The "Virtual Observatory" astronomy model**
  - standard tools
  - metadata and data models
  - virtual community